



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN '98: CALIF. DEMO PARTY AND LABOR PUT ANTI-226 DRIVE INTO HIGH GEAR FOR JUNE.

Editor's note: Within a matter of weeks it will become obvious to Calif. voters that **Prop. 226** - the Campaign Reform Initiative (now called the *Paycheck Protection Initiative* by supporters) - will become one of the most *bitterly fought* and *expensive* initiative battles in Calif. history. Here's our update & analysis...

...The focal point of the recent Calif. Demo Party convention in L.A. was Prop. 226. There wasn't a speech given which didn't mention 226 and its probable impact on Demos should it pass June 2nd. And just before the Demos met in L.A., Prop. 226 was the focus of discussion at a regional AFL-CIO gathering in Las Vegas. 226 is labor's *top nationwide priority*...

...Prop. 226 requires unions to get written permission from their members before using a portion of dues for political purposes. Sounds rather simple, but it is more complex and those who are fighting 226 say it will cripple labor's ability to fund Demo candidates in the November '98 elections. If approved, the wording of 226 will allow it to take effect immediately after the June primary. In the latest Field Poll, YES on 226 was leading: **60% vs. 29%**. However, that's an 11-point drop from the last Field Poll in February which had the YES side up by a **71% vs. 22%** margin...

...And even if it should pass, there are those on the NO side who think 226 is unconstitutional. And in the Beck case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that union members could withhold dues for political purposes...

...*Californians to Protect Employee Rights*(CPER) is the umbrella committee fighting 226. They have begun a furious PR effort aimed at playing catch up with the other side. And NO on 226 has hired DC-based media

consultant Seder, Laguens & Hamberger to produce the tv spots and other media. CDP delegates got a preview of what the ads might look like when CPER presented a 7-minute video produced by SL&H. The video profiles 2 of the key 226 supporters: J. Patrick Rooney, an Indianapolis insurance executive, who the NO side says wants to kill off medicare & social security; and DC-based Grover Norquist, who is described by the NO side as being a rightwing extremist with close links to House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Of the two, the NO on 226 side views Norquist as being very dangerous because they say his agenda goes far beyond crippling organized labor. These two will end up being the poster boys in the anti-226 ads, sources say. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S RACE

Editor's note: If you look at the last 7-10 days and then put that into the proper political context, you can begin to see what's taking place among the Demo rivals for governor. Here's our update & analysis...

...While frontrunning GOP gubernatorial candidate Dan Lungren watched from the sideline, Demo strategists for Lt. Gov. Gray Davis, U.S. Rep. Jane Harman and businessman Al Checchi spent the week of Mar. 16th (just prior to the Calif. Demo Party convention) watching each other very carefully. But from what **Calpeek** sources say, Checchi was doing more than watching. He was in serious discussions with his campaign team about how to deal with his two Demo rivals...

...No sooner had the week started, when pollster Mervin Field released his updated survey showing Harman now leading the Demos field - going from **5% to 17%** within a matter of 3 weeks. She passed Checchi, who after spending \$18 million seemed stalled at **15%**, and zipped past Davis, who dropped to **11%**. But Checchi

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didn't need Field to tell him that Harman was surging. His own tracking polls showed him that...

...And since Checchi's *opposition research* on Davis and Harman was complete, the only question by Mar. 18th was whether begin airing **attack ads** against them. Our sources say the 2 ads now airing were produced by Friday, Mar. 20th. The ads were given to KABC-TV and other ABC affiliates by the morning of Mar. 23rd and one spot aired during the Oscar awards show. These spots are now in full rotation statewide...

...Did these ads attacking Harman's '93 and '96 budget votes and hitting Davis & Harman together on auto insurance and education catch either camp off guard? Sources say both campaigns were alert and there were signs Checchi's campaign was unsettled by the new polling data and thus attack ads might be coming, even though Checchi had previously promised to take the *high road*. Checchi's response: Davis and Harman started it. Sounds like whining. At the convention, Checchi was hit hard by Davis for giving contributions to GOPers Steve Forbes and Bob Dole in '96, but except for some minor criticism, Harman wasn't negative about either rival. Thus it seems that what took place at the convention had little to do with the decision to air these ads. Are the ads accurate? Always remember this about political ads: *one man's smear is another man's fact sheet*...

...FYI: the majority of delegates liked their long time favorite Davis, but Harman wasn't far off the mark. As for Checchi, delegates were somewhat suspicious, the feeling being that he *wasn't a real Democrat*. Checchi's speech on the last day was titled, "*Why I am A Democrat*." Very smart and on target...

...In terms of how the news media reported the CDP gathering, *Sacto BEE* columnist Dan Walters felt Checchi was the clear winner. But the *S.F. Chron's* Phil Matier & Andy Ross said "Harman Steals Show at Demo Convention." *L.A. Times* political columnist George Skelton believed that Harman won what he called the "weekend skirmish." Stay tuned...

COMMUNICATING WITH CALPEEK VIA E-MAIL.

For those inclined to use it, we do have an E-mail address: **calpeek@aol.com**. We check our E-Mail 4-5 times a week...

CAMPAIGN '98: THE "MONICA" QUESTION NEVER GOT ASKED OF SEN. BOXER AT CDP CONVENTION.

Editor's note: While the news media covering the just concluded Calif. Demo Party convention was probably more interested in the governor's race, there were some questions the news media had for incumbent U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D). But no sooner had she finished her speech, than she was gone. Here's our update...

...You don't need to be a rocket scientist to know that Sen. Boxer doesn't enjoy talking about the country's favorite *political soap opera* - allegations of **sexual misconduct** against Pres. Bill Clinton. But she has talked about it --- although her answers aren't especially convincing, given her past statements on the issue of sexual harassment. The problem is that she hasn't addressed this issue in front of the combined political & Capitol press corps. So undoubtedly it urked some reporters when she appeared to be ducking a call to hold a news conference after her speech. And in politics, *it's perception that counts*...

...Some on Boxer's team thought it was a cheap shot to nail her on this. But it's a subject the news media is totally fixated on and it won't go away. And it's not just the news media who is pressing Boxer on the issue. U.S. Rep. Frank Riggs(R), who is trailing badly in the Calif. U.S. Senate race, is trying to make ink by pestering Boxer with photo ops and news releases...

...For those with short memories, it was Boxer, more than anyone else, who hounded former GOP U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood of Oregon out of office after it was disclosed he sexually harassed some of his female staffers. So it's no wonder the news media wants to get Boxer's views about *soap queens* Monica, Kathleen & Paula...

...Among political reporters at the CDP convention, the consensus is that Boxer will ultimately face deep pocketed GOP businessman Darrell Issa of San Diego, who has been on tv for what seems like months with that same bio ad. Issa pulled ahead of rival Matt Fong in the latest Field Poll (Issa 15% vs. Fong at 12%, with Riggs at 4%). There's reportedly another very recent poll of 700 taken Mar. 20-22 which shows Issa at 17% vs. Fong at 9%. At present, Issa seems rather conservative in his public statements, but sources predict he'll move rather quickly to the *center* once the primary is over. Issa is expected to have a new tv ad by April

15th...

...FYI: Boxer's campaign has released a list of 22 GOPers who will be charter members of *Republicans For Boxer*. Among the names: San Rafael Mayor Al Boro; hi tech exec John Doerr of Woodside; political consultant Clem Whitaker of S.F.; former Marin Co. Sup. Peter Arrigoni; pro-choice activist Ms. Dagmar Dolby of S.F.; NWPC/West L.A. Pres. Lillian Appleby; and NWPC leader Kathleen Dowling of S.F. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Here are some recent developments and trends about initiatives on the June & November '98 ballot...

◆ ***New Poll on 227*** - The latest survey on the Unz Initiative to do away with bilingual education in Calif. schools shows YES now leading by a 70% vs. 20% margin, with 10% undecided. It's even favored by 61% of Latino voters...

◆ ***Indian Gaming Initiative*** - The Indian Economic Self-Sufficiency Act was given the OK to begin collecting signatures Mar. 24th. No sooner had the AG given the measure title & summary (**Tribal-State Gaming Compacts. Tribal Casinos**) than it was rushed to the printers. By the time you read this, this statute will be on the street collecting signatures. Sources believe the Indians will likely spend between \$4-10 million to qualify this measure. This measure would permit gambling devices and lotteries at tribal casinos and amends the CA law to allow slot machines and banked card games at tribal casinos. This is a direct threat to Nevada gaming interests so you can bet your first born that if this initiative qualifies, Vegas will spend more than Jane Harman, Al Checchi and Darrell Issa --- combined...

● ***Calif. Demo Party NO on All Initiatives*** - At their just concluded convention in L.A., CDP delegates voted to oppose all 5 citizen/special interest group initiatives on the June '98 ballot. (The Demos support the first 4 measures - placed on the ballot by members of the Calif. Legislature). What's of interest is that 224, the so-called Competitive Bidding Initiative, was supported by the CDP's Executive Board last year - but not any longer...

CAMPAIGN '98: FUN & GAMES AT THE CDP MEETING.

Editor's note: **Calpeek** certainly picked up lots of gossip and insider stuff at the Calif. Demo Party convention that the dailies don't print. Here's a sample...

☒ ***On the Governor's Race*** - Everyone now knows Lt. Gov. Gray Davis' ending line to his radio ad: *Experience money can't buy*. One political reporter dropped this one about millionaire businessman Al Checchi: *Money experience can't buy*...

☒ ***Best Line at the CDP Convention*** - It comes from Controller Kathleen Connell. In her speech she said that she'd found enough money in the budget after audits to cover --- Al Checchi's catering tab at the convention. To which Checchi supporters probably wished she'd break her other hip --- and guess what? A few days later Connell slipped while rushing to catch a plane at LAX and broke her hip. Hummmm....

☒ ***The CDP's Version of Carville*** - It's none other than CDP political advisor Bob Mulholland, the Demo spin master. Why does the GOP hate him so much? According to one reporter who has been covering Calif. politics a long time: "It's because he's so good. He's the only one who really understands how to do it." Is Mulholland better than James Carville? Perhaps...

☒ ***The CDP's Anti-Lungren TV Ad*** - Because AG Dan Lungren doesn't have a serious GOP challenge, the Calif. Demo Party has decided to give Lungren something to think about during the primary. The CDP hired consultants Sid & Mark Galanty produced a :60-sec. tv hit aimed at Lungren. The visual is a stone bust of Lungren which begins to crumble when negatives about his stand on guns, choice, tobacco and education are recited. Will the CDP have enough \$\$ to air this ad???

☒ ***Lisa In the Lion's Den*** - The one GOP observer who showed up at the CDP convention was Lisa Gimbel, GOP U.S. Senate candidate Darrell Issa's press secretary. She was sitting with reporters in the press room when in walked Bob Mulholland. What happened next wasn't exactly a *political food fight*, but it was entertaining to watch Mulholland and Gimbel trade shots. The 26-year-old Gimbel held her own. Hey Darrell - give her a pay raise. She's OK...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Apr. 3-13	CA Legislative Easter recess.
Apr. 7	9th CD & 44th CD special election.
Apr. 8	Calif. AFL-CIO Endorsing conference, S.F.
Apr. 9	17th annual Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute Awards Dinner, L.A.
Apr. 14	Long Beach muni elections.
Apr. 17	17th annual <i>The Party's Not Over!</i> bipartisan benefit at Bimbo's 365 Club, S.F...
Apr. 24-25	Orange Co. Demo Party Convention, Westcoast Anaheim Hotel, Anaheim.
May 4	Last day to register to vote in June primary.
May 21	Campaign reports are due.
June 2	CA Primary Election.
June 26-28	Nat'l Women's Political Caucus of Calif., 1998 convention, Hotel Inter-Continental, L.A.

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ **New Poll in Oakland Mayor's Race** - No real shock, but EX-Demo Jerry Brown is leading 7 rivals in the battle to become Oakland's next mayor. The poll by Mark Baldassare & Assoc. of 600 registered voters was taken Mar. 12-15. It shows Brown with **38%**. Oakland Councilman Ignacio De La Fuente is 2nd with **5%**. Alameda Co. Sup. Mary King, Shannon Reeves and Ed Blakely are tied at **3%** each. Audrey Rice Oliver and Leo Bazile have **2%** each and Ces Butner is at **1%**. Undecided leads with **43%**...

■ **New Field Poll in AG's Race** - In the latest survey by pollster Mervin Field, **undecided** leads with **56%**. Among the candidates it's this way: State Sen. Bill Lockyer(D) **11%**; former Congresswoman Lynn Schenk(D), Chief Asst. AG Dave Stirling(R) and Orange Co. DA Mike Capizzi(R) - all tied at **8%** each; State Sen. Charles Calderon(D) **5%**, with **4%** for others...

■ **New Field Poll in LG's Race** - In the Lt. Governor's race, here's how pollster Mervin Field's latest poll ranks the contenders: Assemblyman Cruz Bustamante (D) **17%**, State Sen. Richard Mountjoy(R) **8%**, State Sen. Tim Leslie(R) **6%**, former acting SOS Tony Miller(D) **5%**, businesswoman Noel Irwin-Hentschel (R) **3%**, others **6%** and undecided **55%**...

■ **New Team for Assembly Speaker** - Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa's new leadership team includes

Sheila Kuehl as Speaker Pro Tem; Joe Baca as Asst. Speaker Pro Tem; Don Perata as Majority Leader; Kevin Shelley as Majority Flood Leader; Helen Thomson as Whip; and Fred Keeley as Caucus Chairman. What's of interest here is that Villaraigosa has named 2 majority leaders. Also moving up: Robert Hertzberg is the new Rules Cmt. chairman...

...On the GOP side, Assembly Leader Bill Leonard's team includes 3 asst. leaders: Bruce Thompson, Dick Ackerman and Howard Kaloogian. The whips are Tom Woods and Steve Baldwin, while Lynn Leach continues as Caucus Chairperson...

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NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of these notes in our file...

● S.F.-based campaign mgt. executive Scott Shafer will return to journalism full time April 13 when he becomes the new host of KQED-Radio's *The Calif. Report*, which is heard twice weekly on most public radio stations in Calif...

● San Diego Councilwoman Barbara Warden has been appointed to the Comm. on Peace Officer Standards & Training by Gov. Wilson...

● Susan Lugo-McCue has been hired as a research analyst by Godbe Research & Analysis...

● Cecilia Aguilera Glassman has joined the L.A.-based Consensus Planning Group as a vp...

● The Kamber Group/L.A. has been hired to do fundraising work for NO on Prop. 223...

● L.A.-based campaign firm of Siegel & Nicholl has moved to 900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1000, L.A. 90010. New ☎(213)895-4646...